

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned Application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A connection group for movable road barriers, [comprising] which comprises a [pair] plurality of jawed joints suitable for [being attached] attachment to [the] respective upright members of adjacent barriers and connected to each other [in such a way] so as to compensate for imperfections [as regards] in the co-planarity and/or [the] parallelism of [said] the upright members due to [the conformation of] their conformance with the [ground] surface on which the barriers [are set up] rest.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The connection group [according to] set forth in claim 1, wherein [said] the joints are connected to each other by [means of] an elastic joint.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The connection group [according to] set forth in claim 2, wherein [said] the elastic joint [is] includes a helical spring, [of which] the ends of which are connected to [said] the joints.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The connection group [according to] set forth in claim 3, wherein the ends of [said] the helical spring are wound [around] about respective sleeves extending from [said] the joints.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The connection group [according to claims] set forth in claim 1 [or 2], wherein each of [said] the joints comprises an inner jaw and an outer jaw of generally semi-annular shape, the inner and outer jaws being pivotably connected to one another by [means of] two respective ends, and a lever member [with] having one [free] end free and [the other] another end pivotably connected to the other end of [said] the outer jaw, [said] the lever member being [also] pivotably connected at an intermediate part to side arms of a substantially C-shaped crosspiece engageable with a hook-shaped protrusion of [said] the inner jaw when [said] the lever member is superposed [to said] on the outer jaw, and the inner jaw having a key device for locking [said] the crosspiece in the position in which it is engaged with [said] the protrusion [being also provided on said inner jaw].

Claim 6 (currently amended) The connection group [according to] set forth in claim 5, wherein [said] the key device comprises a rotatable lock bolt in a seating provided on [said] the inner jaw on the same side as [said] the hook-shaped protrusion, [said] the lock bolt being lockable in a closed position [in which] such that it abuts [against said] the crosspiece when it is engaged with [said] the hook-shaped protrusion and in an open position angularly spaced by about 90°.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The connection group [according to claims] set forth in claim 5 [or 6], wherein [said] the hook-shaped protrusion [is provided with] has a seating for engaging a correspondingly shaped corner of [said] the crosspiece that, at generally the same time, also abuts [against said] the lock bolt when it is in [its] the closed position.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The connection group [according to] set forth in claim 6, wherein [said] the lock bolt [is provided with] includes a pair of side seatings, spaced by about 90° [with respect] relative to each other, for engaging a corresponding tooth integral with [said] the inner jaw to lock [the] rotation of the lock bolt in[, respectively, its] the closed and open positions, respectively.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The connection group [according to] set forth in claim 4, wherein a rigid bar [can be] is interposed between [said] the joints, coaxially with [said] the spring, the ends of [said] the rod being connected to [said] the sleeves in order to provide a substantially rigid connection between parallel barriers.

REMARKS

The captioned Application has been amended to comport with U.S. practice, and, in so doing, to better define the invention without limiting effect. No new matter has been

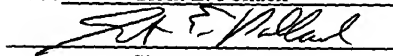
added. Favorable consideration of this Application on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 8, 2003

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